

FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 FisherCs Lane, rm. 1061 Rockville MD 20852

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Dear Commissioner Henney,

The proposed Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations fail to require labels or safety tests on genetically engineered (GE) food. The new rules continue to deny Americans the right to know what is in our food, while protecting the economic interests of biotech corporations.

Labeling GE foods would protect the public from potential health effects that could only be traced if GE foods can be identified. By refusing to require both labeling and mandatory safety testing of foods, the FDA puts consumer's health at risk, and ignores the recommendations of the Biotechnology Consultative Forum, who in December urged the US to require mandatory labeling of GE foods.

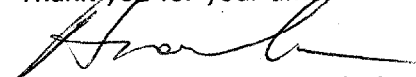
I do have a solution to suggest that may help protect the profits of the Biotech Corporations, without depriving American people from the right to eat natural food. The labeling "genetically modified" can be accompanied by "FDA approved". The latter part of the label will certainly provide confidence to those Americans who trust the Government blindly, as well as those who know too little about Science and Technology, but just enough to be fascinated by anything that Science/Technology brings about. The rest of us will have a choice.

Your refusal to demand labeling of GM foods DOES NOT ONLY DEPRIVE US FROM "THE RIGHT TO KNOW" what we eat, and the freedom to choose; it is NOT in any way similar to suppressing the freedom of speech or press and the like. YOU DEPRIVE US FROM THE FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OUR LIVES, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY FOR THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN. Is this consistent with the so called "American values", at the core of which, one would think, is "Democratic values"????????? Even the worst dictatorships in the world would have a hard time to find such subtle ways to express their indifference for the lives and health of their people.

You may argue that I have a choice to eat only organic foods. Even if I were (and I am) willing to pay extra for these foods, I have no time to drive to those few places that sell them. But there are other reasons that this is not really a choice. Example: my child is a very picky eater. He will not eat my potatoes, but he welcomes the french fries from Mc'Donalds, Burger King etc. If such places (which are favorites for most children) sell trash, because they are cheaper, then think what do our children grow on: milk from cows that are given growth hormone, irradiated meat from animals treated with hormones and antibiotics, and now genetically engineered high-tech super foods! Do you really care if this land and its people will still be around for generations to come?

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and insure that GE foods are subject to pre-market testing and labeling. Americans have a right to LIFE!!!!!!

Thank you for your time



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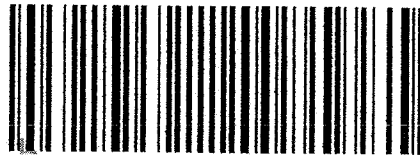
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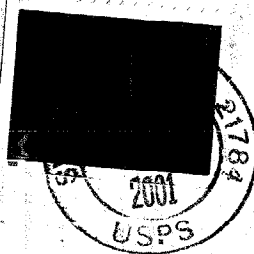


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